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APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
COMMUNITY COLLEGES, CHAIR
JOINT CAPITAL OUTLAY, VICE-CHAIR
GENERAL GOVERNMENT
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ADA TO ZEELAND B3
MICHIGAN B6
DEATHS B7

SECTION
B

Fire victim died in peace

FAMILY GATHERS TO SAY FAREWELL

BY BARTON DEITERS
THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

WYOMING — One more Christmas at home. That's what was planned for multiple sclerosis patient Timothy Allen, who died Sunday following a house fire.

For six years, the 28-year-old battled against the multiple sclerosis that robbed him of his career, control of his muscles and finally, his family believes, his life.

where he was getting ahead and, then, he found out he had MS," said Paul Allen, Timothy's older brother. "He suffered enough for any 12 men, and he did it with a smile."

Allen said his brother was at the 825 40th St. SW home he shared with his mother, 55-year-old nurse Nancy Allen, having a cigarette and watching TV.

Around 4:30 p.m., Allen believes his brother had an MS-related seizure, dropped the lit cigarette and died in the resulting fire.

Nancy Allen, who cared for her ailing son when she was not caring for patients at her job in a nursing home, found her son and tried to rescue him.

Firefighters helped the two out of the brick ranch house. Nancy Allen suffered smoke inhalation but was not seriously injured.

Timothy Allen was taken to Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus, where he died 12 hours later. Initial fire investigations indicate smoking materials caused the city's first fire fatality since 2006, Wyoming Fire Chief Robert Austin said.

"The family was all there when he passed away. It was very peaceful," Paul Allen said.

Allen said his brother was a regular healthy kid most of his life. He graduated from Oscoda High School and worked for Mid-States Bolts and Screws in Lansing before he had his first seizure.

Over the years, the disease took its toll and, at the end, Timothy Allen was having trouble breathing, and his kidneys were failing.

Timothy Allen was opposed to going into a care facility, but his daily needs became overwhelming, Paul Allen said.

"We knew it was time he was going to have to go to a (care facility)," Allen said. "We wanted to keep him home through the holidays."



Timothy
Allen



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"COMMITTED TO THE CITIZENS OF GRAND RAPIDS AND WEST MICHIGAN"

Background: The Tobacco Products Tax Act currently requires tobacco products to be individually labeled with the state's tobacco tax stamps. This bill will clarify that cigarettes must also be marked as fire-safe.

Fiscal Impact: The fiscal impact has not yet been determined.

Pros: It is important to expand the Department of Treasury's inspection authority to fire-safe cigarettes.

Cons: None.

Administration Position: The Department of Treasury does not yet have a position.

Supporting: Altria Corporate Services, Inc.; Great Lakes Burn Camp; International Association of Arson Investigators; Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs; Michigan Fire Inspectors Society; Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association; Michigan Professional Firefighters Union; Michigan State Firemen's Association; Andy Neumann, State Fire Marshall; Phoenix Society; R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

Opposing: None identified.

Possible Questions:

- Why will manufacturers of fire-safe cigarettes be able to inspect confiscated cigarettes before their destruction when manufacturers currently do not have the authority to do this?
- How will the fire-safe cigarette marking program work with the current tobacco tax stamp program?

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